



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Justice Committee

Michael Matheson MSP  
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Dear Michael

The Scottish Parliament's EU Strategy requires subject committees to agree their priorities for EU engagement on an annual basis. Last year, the Justice Committee focused its EU scrutiny on the impact on Scotland of the UK Government's decision to opt out of all police and criminal justice measures adopted prior to the Lisbon Treaty and to seek to re-join a number of individual measures. The Committee also monitored developments with the proposal to establish a European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), given the concerns raised in 2013 around breach of the subsidiarity principle.

At its meeting today, the Committee agreed to focus our EU engagement in 2015-16 on the following areas:

- monitoring the EU's work on E-Justice in the context of the Scottish Government's own Digital Strategy in Scotland;
- monitoring any potential relevance for the development of Scots law (including as part of future consideration of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill) of proposed directives on the Presumption of Innocence, Procedural Safeguards for Children in Criminal Proceedings and Legal Aid in Criminal Proceedings, and of negotiations on the EPPO for the work of the prosecution service in Scotland;
- considering how the Commission's European Agenda on Migration referred to in the latest Commission Work Programme is to include measures against people trafficking and smuggling;
- considering any relevant issues arising from revised approach on the Scottish Government's Action Plan on European Engagement once published in April;
- examining the Justice and Home Affairs agenda 2015-20 once agreed.

The Committee agreed to write to you in the first instance, seeking an update on developments with (a) E-Justice in the context of the Scottish Government's Digital Strategy for Justice in Scotland; (b) proposed criminal justice proposals set out in bullet-point 2 above and their potential impact on Scots law and the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill; (c) the European Agenda on Migration and how this may impact on the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill, and (d) any details and timetable for the Justice and Home Affairs agenda 2015-20.

The Committee would be grateful for this information by 20 March.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Grahame', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the start of the signature.

Christine Grahame MSP  
Convener, Justice Committee